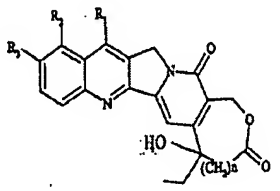
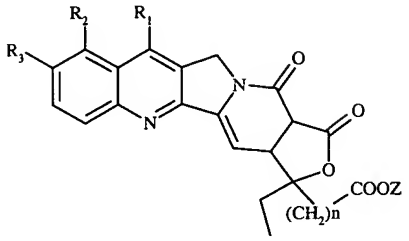
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I) or formula (II)



(I)



(II)

where:

R_1 is ~~hydrogen or a~~ -$C(R_5)$=N-O-R_4 group, in which R_4 is hydrogen or a straight or branched C_1-C_5 alkyl or C_1-C_5 alkenyl group, or a C_3-C_{10} cycloalkyl group, or a straight or branched (C_3-C_{10}) cycloalkyl - (C_1-C_5) alkyl group, or a C_6-C_{14} aryl group, or a straight or branched (C_6-C_{14}) aryl - (C_1-C_5) alkyl group, or a heterocyclic group or a straight or branched heterocyclo - (C_1-C_5) alkyl group, said heterocyclic group containing at least one heteroatom selected from an atom of nitrogen, optionally substituted with an (C_1-C_5) alkyl group, and/or an atom of oxygen and/or of sulphur; said alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aryl-alkyl, heterocyclic or heterocyclo-alkyl groups can optionally be substituted with one or more groups selected from the group consisting of: halogen, hydroxy, C_1-C_5 alkyl, C_1-C_5 alkoxy, phenyl, cyano, nitro, and -NR_6R_7, where R_6 and R_7, which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched (C_1-C_5) alkyl, the -COOH group or one of its pharmaceutically acceptable esters; or the -

$CONR_8R_9$ group, where R_8 and R_9, which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched (C_1-C_5) alkyl; or

R_4 is a (C_6-C_{10}) aroyl or (C_6-C_{10}) arylsulphonyl residue, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from: halogen, hydroxy, straight or branched C_1-C_5 alkyl, straight or branched C_1-C_5 alkoxy, phenyl, cyano, nitro, $-NR_{10}R_{11}$, where R_{10} and R_{11}, which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched C_1-C_5 alkyl; or:

R_4 is a polyaminoalkyl residue; or

R_4 is a glycosyl residue;

R_5 is hydrogen, straight or branched C_1-C_5 alkyl, straight or branched C_1-C_5 alkenyl, C_3-C_{10} cycloalkyl, straight or branched (C_3-C_{10}) cycloalkyl - (C_1-C_5) alkyl, C_6-C_{14} aryl, straight or branched (C_6-C_{14}) aryl - (C_1-C_5) alkyl;

R_2 and R_3, which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, hydroxy, straight or branched C_1-C_5 alkoxy;

n = 1 or 2,

Z is selected from hydrogen, straight or branched C_1-C_4 alkyl;

the N_1-oxides, the racemic mixtures, their individual enantiomers, their individual diastereoisomers, their mixtures, and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts~~, with the proviso that, in formula (I), R_1, R_2 and R_3 cannot be simultaneously hydrogen~~.

2. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, in which, in formula (I), n is 1.

3. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, in which, in formula (II), n is 1.

4. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 2, selected from the group consisting of:

R,S-7-methoxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;

R,S-7-ethoxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;

R,S-7-isopropoxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;

R,S-7-(2-methylbutoxy)iminomethyl-homocamptothecin;

R,S-7-(1-t-butoxy)iminomethyl-homocamptothecin;

R,S-7-(4-hydroxybutoxy)iminomethyl-homocamptothecin;

R,S-7- triphenylmethoxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;

R,S-7-carboxymethoxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;

R,S-7-aminoethoxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;

R,S-7-(N,N-dimethylaminoethoxy)iminomethyl-homocamptothecin;

R,S-7-allyloxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;

R,S-7-cyclohexyloxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;

R,S-7-cyclohexylmethoxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;

R,S-7-cyclooctyloxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;

R,S-7-cyclooctylmethoxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;

R,S-7-benzyloxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;

R,S-7-(benzyloxy)iminophenylmethyl-homocamptothecin;

R,S-7-(1-benzyloxy)iminoethyl-homocamptothecin;

R,S-7-(1-t-butoxy)iminoethyl-homocamptothecin;

R,S-7-p-nitrobenzyloxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;

R,S-7-p-methylbenzyloxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;

R,S-7-pentafluorobenzyloxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;

R,S-7-p-phenylbenzyloxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;

R,S-7-(2,4-difluorobenzylmethoxy)iminomethyl-homocamptothecin;

R,S-7-(4-t-butylphenylmethoxy)iminomethyl-homocamptothecin;

R,S-7-(1-adamantyloxy)iminomethyl-homocamptothecin;

R,S-7-(1-adamantylmethoxy)iminomethyl-homocamptothecin;

R,S-7-(2-naphthalenyloxy)iminomethyl-homocamptothecin;

R,S-7-(9-anthracenylmethoxy)iminomethyl-homocamptothecin;

R,S-7-(6-uracyl)methoxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;

R,S-7-(4-pyridil)methoxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;

R,S-7-(2-thienyl)methoxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;

R,S-7-[(N-methyl)-3-piperidinyl]methoxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;

R,S-7-hydroxyiminophenylmethyl-homocamptothecin.

5. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 3, selected from the group consisting of:

{10-[(E)-(ter-butoxyimino)methyl]-3-ethyl-1,13-dioxo-11,13-dihydro-1H,3H-furo[3',4':6,7]indolizino[1,2-b]quinolin-3-yl}acetic acid

(10-{(E)-[(benzyloxy)imino]methyl}-3-ethyl-1,13-dioxo-11,13-dihydro-1H,3H-furo[3',4':6,7]indolizino[1,2-b]quinolin-3-yl)acetic acid

(3-ethyl-1,13-dioxo-11,13-dihydro-1H,3H-furo[3',4':6,7] indolizino[1,2-b]quinolin-3-yl)acetic acid, and

ter-butylic ester of (3-ethyl-1,13-dioxo-11,13-dihydro-1H,3H-furo[3',4':6,7] indolizino[1,2-b]quinolin-3-yl)acetic acid.

6. (Previously Presented) A process for the preparation of a formula (I) compound according to claim 1 in which R_1 is hydrogen, comprising:

a) reduction of the keto group in position 19 of the camptothecin, , in which the groups R_2 and R_3 have the same meaning as in formula (I), to yield 19,20-dihydroxy-derivative ;

b) treatment of the derivative obtained in step a) with periodate and acetic acid, to obtain opening of the E ring;

c) Reformatsky reaction on the derivative obtained in step b); and

d) formation of the E ring where n is 1 or 2.

7. (Previously Presented) A process for the preparation of a formula (I) compound according to claim 1, in which R_1 is a $-C(R_5)=N-O-R_4$ group, comprising:

a) transformation of the camptothecin, optionally substituted with R_2 and R_3, have the meanings as in formula (I), to 7-(di-methoxymethyl)camptothecin;

b) reduction of the keto group in position 19 of the 7-(di-methoxymethyl)camptothecin, to yield a derivative 19,20-dihydroxy;

c) treatment of the derivative obtained in step b) with periodate and acetic acid, to obtain the opening of the E ring;

d) Reformatsky reaction on the derivative obtained in step c);

e) treatment of the compound obtained in step d) with a formula R_4ONH_2 oxime and simultaneous formation of ring E where n is 1 or 2.

8. (Previously Presented) A process for the preparation of a formula (II) compound according to claim 1 in which R_1 is hydrogen, comprising:

a) reduction of the keto group in position 19 of the camptothecin, optionally substituted with R_2 and R_3 have the meanings as in formula (II), to yield the derivative 19,20-dihydroxy;

b) treatment of the derivative obtained in step a) with periodate and acetic acid, to obtain the opening of the E ring;

c) Reformatsky reaction on the derivative obtained in step b);

d) treatment of the derivative obtained in step c) with PDC with formation of the E ring and, if so desired;

e) transformation of the Z group to hydrogen.

9. (Previously Presented) A process for the preparation of a formula (II) compound according to claim 1 in which R_1 is a $-C(R_5)=N-O-R_4$ group, comprising:

a) transformation of the camptothecin, optionally substituted with R_2 and R_3, to 7-(di-methoxymethyl)camptothecin;

b) reduction of the keto group in position 19 of the 7-(di-methoxymethyl)camptothecin, optionally substituted with the envisaged meanings of R_2 and R_3, to yield a derivative 19,20-dihydroxy;

c) treatment of the derivative obtained in step b) with periodate and acetic acid, to obtain opening of the E ring;

d) Reformatsky reaction on the derivative obtained in step c);

e) treatment of the derivative obtained in step d) with PDC with formation of the E ring;

f) treatment of the compound obtained in step e) with an oxime of formula R_4ONH_2 and, if so desired,

g) transformation of the Z group to hydrogen.

10.-12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition containing a therapeutically effective amount of at least one compound according to claim 1 in admixture with pharmaceutically acceptable vehicles and excipients.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13, in which the composition also contains as an active ingredient an anticancer agent.

16. (Previously Presented) A method for inhibiting topoisomerase I in a subject in need of such inhibition comprising administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a tumors responsive to topoisomerase inhibition in a subject in need of such treatment comprising administering to said subject a compound of claim 1.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a parasitic or a viral infection responsive to topoisomerase I inhibition in a subject in need of such treatment comprising administering to said subject a compound of claim 1.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the tumor is a lung tumor.

20. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the tumor is selected from the group consisting of non microcytoma lung cancer, colorectal tumor, prostate tumor and glioma.

21. (New)The method of claim 18, wherein said parasite is selected from the group consisting of trypanosome and leishmania.

22. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein said virus is human immunodeficiency virus type 1 and JC virus.